

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
July 19, 2005**

Present: Commissioners Lythgoe, Notbohm and Weber; Lonnie Whitakker, mapping tech; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor/Jefferson County Courier*

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 7/20 CTAC - Whitehall - 8:00
Planning Board - Whitehall - 7:00
- 7/21 Rick Hotaling - BLM - 10:00
MTAG - 5:00
BLM public meeting re: Buckner exchange
- 7/25 Golden Triangle - Great Falls - 10:00
- 7/26 Meet with member of JLDC re: grant writer - 10:00
Board of Adjustment - 7:00

COMMISSION REPORTS

ENGINEERING CONTRACT

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that the Commission met with Alan Erickson that morning to discuss more in depth the on-call engineering bid.

BUDGET MEETINGS

Commissioner Weber reported that the budget meetings with the departments went well, and that it was a learning experience for him.

SUBDIVISIONS

Commissioner Weber reported that the Commission met at Millegan Canyon to review a proposed subdivision. A Planning Board meeting was held later that night, and that was an interesting process for him to observe. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that this is the second subdivision they have looked at in the south end, which is very telling about what is to come. He noted that they both seem to be good projects. Commissioner Notbohm commented that it is a nice area down there.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Commissioner Notbohm reported that he took part in a conference call that morning for the RMDC governing board. They are not going to have a regular meeting this month, so did the call instead. The house that the high school students built has a buy/sell agreement on it, and RMDC has made enough money on the project to be able to purchase land for the next three projects.

ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS

Commissioner Weber stated that the Commission has received three names from the union to serve on the grievance committee. He requests approval to develop a list of names for the other side, which he would then put through the mail for their approval. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he thinks this would be appropriate; he cautioned Commissioner Weber to be aware of biases.

Commissioner Weber stated that he asked Lonnie to come to the meeting to discuss the Buckner exchange. Lonnie presented some maps pulled from BLM documents. He has added some color codes to the maps. He stated that the transfer is contingent on an easement from Buckner to the BLM. The BLM will retain jurisdiction of the portion around the creek. One public concern that has been heard is that the county is not gaining jurisdiction of the thoroughfare, but it will instead go to the BLM, who has a history of closing roads. However, this is not the intent of the BLM. When this all started several years ago, the rumor was that Buckner was going to close access. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that this is the best chance to keep the road open, although they can't know what the BLM is going to do. Commissioner Notbohm stated that his concern is that the Forest Service and BLM are currently putting together their 10-15/year plans. At meetings he has attended, there is no togetherness between the two agencies. He would like to see some sort of promise of permanent access. Commissioner Lythgoe agreed that there is no togetherness between the two agencies, and noted that there never has been. Commissioner Weber stated that the exchange would put BLM in control of the entire length of the road; there would be one entity to deal with, rather than three. Commissioner Weber stated that he asked Lonnie to come to the meeting because the BLM has requested an opinion from the Commission before the public meeting. Lonnie stated that the BLM has gotten form letters in protest, and they would like to hear from the Commission. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he agrees with Commissioner Notbohm; he would like to see some language included in the agreement that would give permanent access. Commissioner Weber will draft a letter for the Commissioners' signatures.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON ENGINEERING CONTRACT

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that the Commission met with Alan Erickson of Great West Engineering that morning to discuss their proposal. There was no dollar figures included in the proposal, and this will be dealt with on a project-by-project basis. He stated that some of the

larger fees will be associated with grant projects, some of which will pay for a portion of the fees. Commissioner Lythgoe moved to enter into an agreement with Great West Engineering to be the County's on-call engineering firm. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON USGS LIAISON

Commissioner Weber stated that he has been working with the USGS and Harold Stepper since the USGS came before the Commission with a presentation. He would like to continue to be the Commission liaison to streamline the process. The other Commissioners agreed that this was a good idea, and asked that he do so.

DISCUSS AMENDMENTS TO COUNTY ROAD STANDARDS

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that Ben Sautter, Road Supervisor, is in the process of finalizing what was discussed at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Weber moved to adjourn. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER